

From: Glen (038) Karen Guenther
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing to say how appalled I am by the DoJ's proposed settlement with Microsoft. As far as I know, all of the findings of fact were upheld so why are you capitulating to Microsoft like this?!? You act like the DoJ was the loser here, not Microsoft! Haven't you paid ANY attention to what Microsoft has been doing with Windows/XP and their ".Net" plans? They're working hard to extend their monopoly and to shut out all other companies. I recently upgraded my Internet Explorer browser to version 5.5 and I found even MORE examples of Microsoft promoting its monopoly. I mis-keyed the web address for a website I was wanting to look at. Instead of bringing up the old "Cannot find..." screen, it took me to an MSN screen where I could search for the website I was trying to find. I've never used MSN to look up websites before so there's no reason why IE 5.5 should have taken me there. This is just another way that Microsoft is trying to extend their monopoly by forcing everyone on the Internet to use their services. Windows/XP is even worse. Microsoft is forcing people to use drivers that THEY approve. How easy it is for Microsoft to simply refuse to approve drivers for competing devices and services (or to simply delay them for long periods of time to give themselves a big advantage in time)! They should NOT be allowed to force only using their approved drivers. Or, if there's a valid reason why only approved drivers can be used, there should be an independent group that provides this approval but, no, we've got the fox guarding the henhouse here! And you're just encouraging them by giving them this weak slap on the wrist. Now that they know that they have nothing to fear from the DoJ, I'm worried about what Microsoft will do to extend their monopoly next!

I tend to think that even the opposing states' proposed remedies to the Microsoft settlement don't go far enough. Still, it's MUCH better than the DoJ's proposal. I think that the opposing states' remedies should be considered the absolute minimum agreement that should be considered! I still wouldn't be happy with it but at least it wouldn't stink to high heaven like the DoJ's capitulation does. You'll ignore this note, just like you'll ignore all of the other notes that disagree with your subservience to Microsoft, but I had to at least voice my opinion.

I guess the thing that disappoints me the most about this is that I've voted for Attorney General Ashcroft in every election where I COULD vote for him. I've met him and campaigned for him in a few different elections. I was thrilled when he was nominated for Attorney General, all the way up until I heard about the DoJ's capitulation to Microsoft. Maybe he isn't the person who is making all of these decisions about giving in to Microsoft but I know that he could right this wrong if he chose to do so. I know that

he's a man of integrity so I am totally baffled why he would let Microsoft get away with electronic murder (of Netscape) here. There are certainly other matters which are more important than this. Nevertheless, this is important enough to me that if this proposed settlement gets enacted as is then I'll never be able to vote for Governor/Senator/Attorney General Ashcroft again with a clear conscience and will have to consider campaigning for his opponents. I'm so disappointed in him...

Sincerely and sadly,
Glen Guenther
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